

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's Office Action, Paper No./Mail Date 20070402, dated April 5, 2007, Applicants have carefully studied the references cited by the Examiner and the Examiner's comments relative thereto.

Claims 9 and 14 have been amended.

Claims 1-8, 12, and 15 have been cancelled.

Claims 19-25 have been added.

Claims 9-11, 13, 14, and 16-25 remain in the application.

No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner has deemed Claims 12 and 15 allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Responsive thereto, Applicants have made the following amendments and additions to the claims:

1) Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-8 rendering any rejection of these claims moot.

2) Applicants have amended Claim 9 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 12 to place Claim 9 in allowable form. Since Claim 9 is deemed allowable, Claims 10, 11, 13, and new Claims 19-25, which depend directly or indirectly therefrom, are also allowable.

3) Applicants have amended Claim 14 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 15 to place Claim 14 in allowable form. Since Claim 14 is deemed allowable, Claims 16-18, which depend directly or indirectly therefrom, are also allowable.

U.S. Pub. No. 2005/012572 to Birckbichler et al.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-6, 8-10, 13, 14, 16, and 18 as being not patentably distinct from the claims of Birckbichler et al.

Claims 1-6 and 8 have been cancelled from the application, therefore these rejections are moot.

Independent Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 12 to place Claim 9 in allowable form. Since Claim 9 is deemed allowable, Claims 10, 11, 13, and new Claims 19-25, which depend directly or indirectly therefrom, are also allowable.

Independent Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 15 to place Claim 14 in allowable form. Since Claim 14 is deemed allowable, Claims 16-18, which depend directly or indirectly therefrom, are also allowable.

U.S. Pub. No. 2007/0029707 to Birckbichler et al.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 7, 14, 16, and 17 as being not patentably distinct from the claims of Birckbichler et al.

Claims 1, 2, and 7 have been cancelled from the application, therefore these rejections are moot.

Independent Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 15 to place Claim 14 in allowable form. Since Claim 14 is deemed allowable, Claims 16 and 17, which depend directly or indirectly therefrom, are also allowable.

It is submitted that the claims distinctly define the Applicants' invention and distinguish the same from the prior art. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested. A formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

While the Applicants' attorney has made a sincere effort to properly define Applicants' invention and to distinguish the same from the prior art, should the Examiner deem that other language would be more appropriate, it is requested that a telephone interview be had with the Applicants' attorney in a sincere effort to expedite the prosecution of the application.